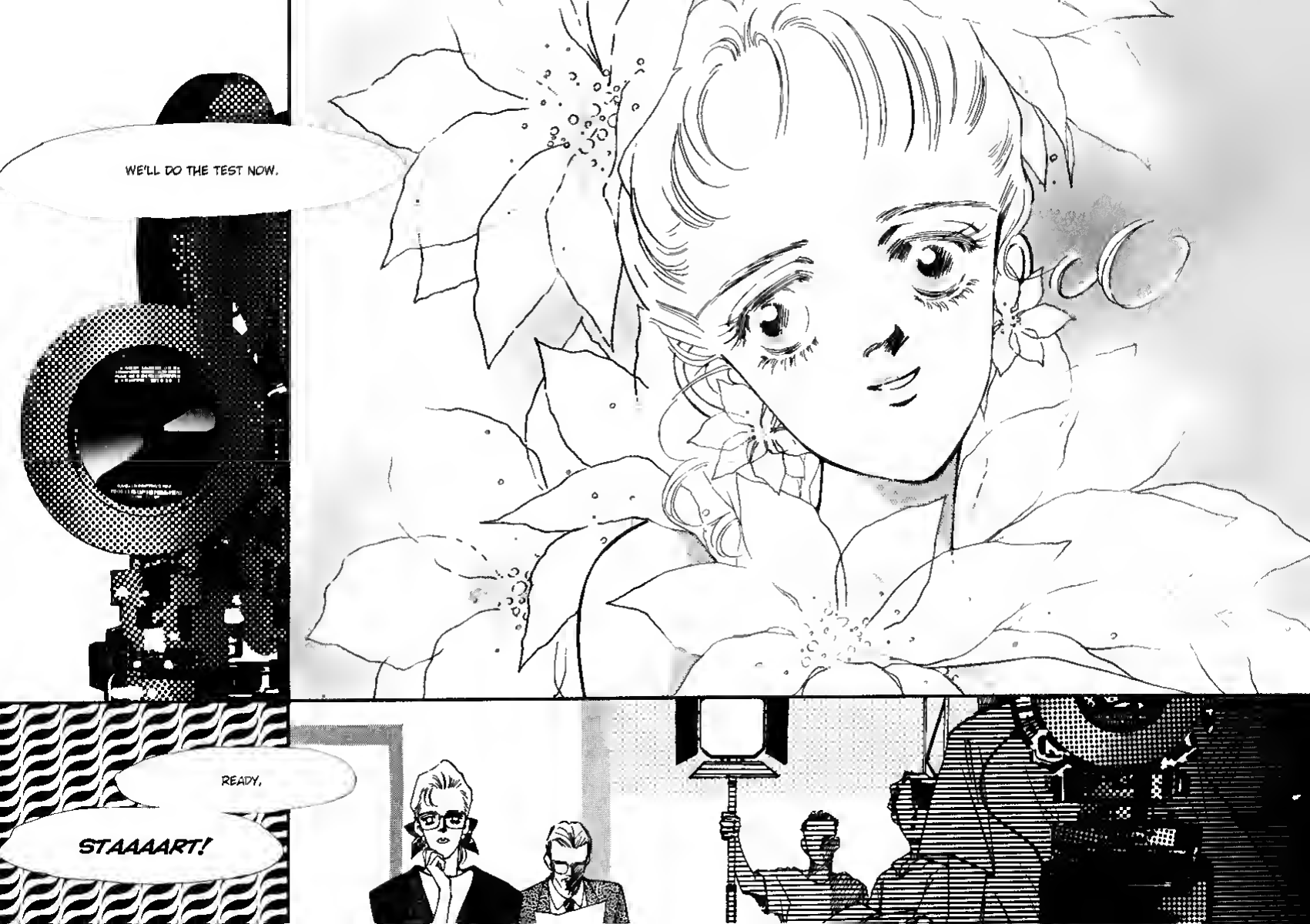
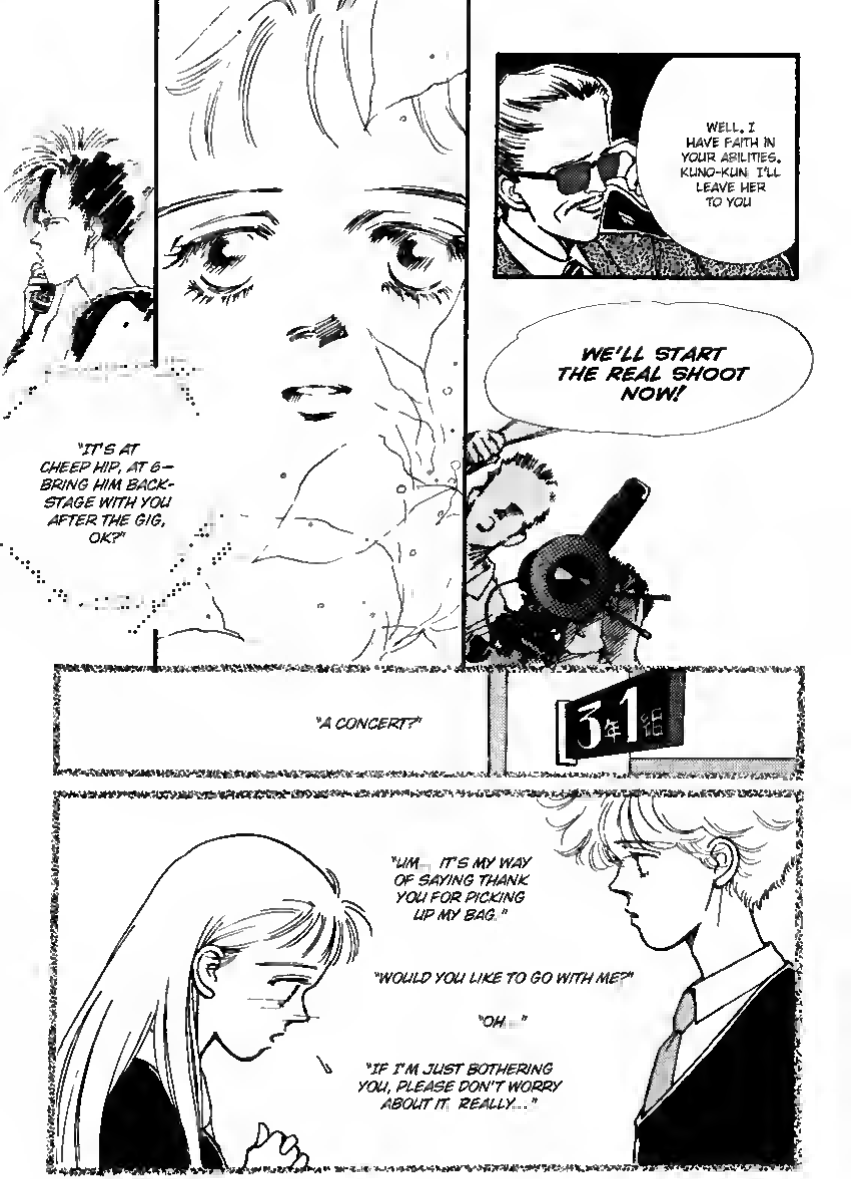
RINO-CHAN LOOK THIS WAY.

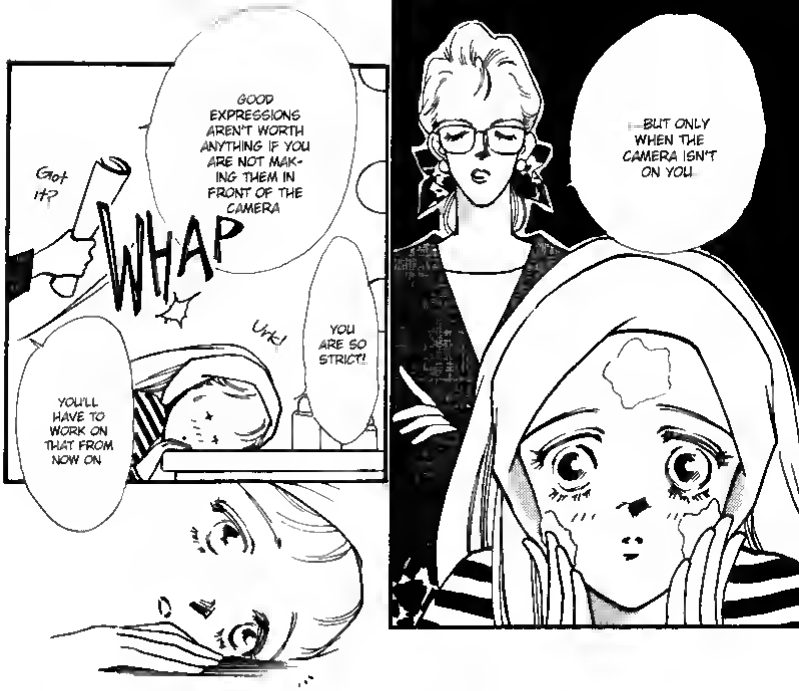

WE'LL DO THE TEST NOW.
READY.
STAAAART!

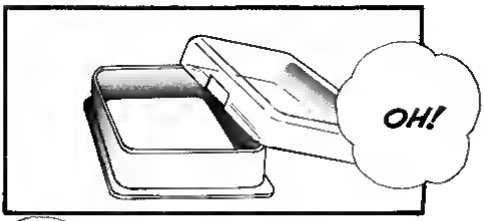
THIS MAY BE A JOINT VENTURE BUT WE'RE NOT MARKETING HER AS AN ACTRESS WHO DOES COMMERCIALS
KUNO-KUN... ISN'T RINO'S MAKEUP A LITTLE TOO SEVERE?
IT'S A WASTE OF HER YOUTHFUL INNOCENCE
SHH!
THE CLIENTS WILL HEAR YOU DIRECTOR.
WHY DO THEY HAVE HER IN THAT OUTRAGEOUS OUTFIT, ANYWAY? IT'S A COMMERCIAL FOR A CD PLAYER!
HER *SELLING POINT* ISN'T HER YOUTH, IT'S HER OWN PERSONAL CHARM.
THERE'S NO NEED TO FIXATE SO MUCH ON THE FACT THAT SHE'S *FOURTEEN*, IS THERE?


WELL, I HAVE FAITH IN YOUR ABILITIES, KUNO-KUN. I'LL LEAVE HER TO YOU
WE'LL START THE REAL SHOOT NOW!
"IT'S AT CHEEP HIP, AT 6— BRING HIM BACK-STAGE WITH YOU AFTER THE GIG, OK?"
"A CONCERT?"
3年1組
"UM... IT'S MY WAY OF SAYING THANK YOU FOR PICKING UP MY BAG."
"WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO WITH ME?"
"OH..."
"IF I'M JUST BOTHERING YOU, PLEASE DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. REALLY..."

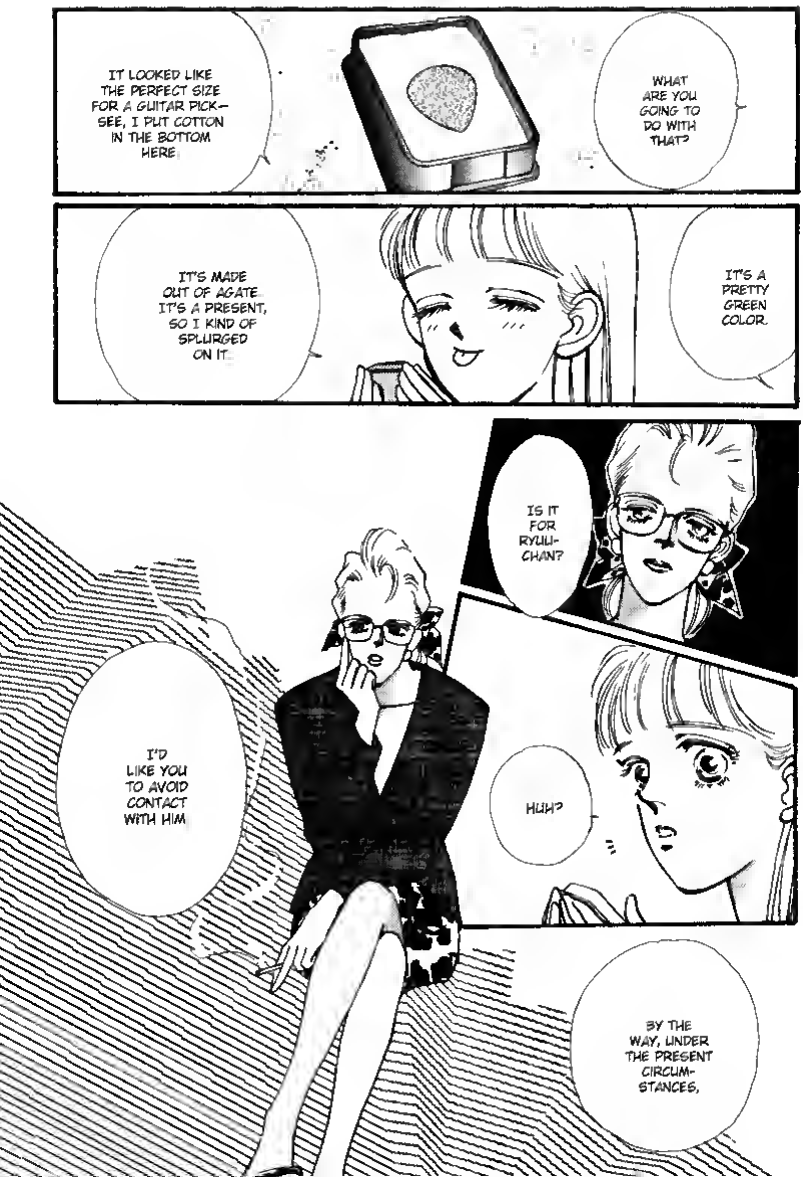
"SURE, I'LL GO."
"WHEN IS IT?"
Nakanome-kun's answer took me by surprise.
Also...
CUUUT! OK, GOOD WORK!

I never imagined he'd have such a husky voice.


GOOD EXPRESSIONS AREN'T WORTH ANYTHING IF YOU ARE NOT MAKING THEM IN FRONT OF THE CAMERA
Got it?
WHAP
Uhh!
YOU ARE SO STRICT!
YOU'LL HAVE TO WORK ON THAT FROM NOW ON
...BUT ONLY WHEN THE CAMERA ISN'T ON YOU.


OH!

HUH?
OH, AN EMPTY HAIRPIN BOX. SURE, IF YOU WANT
HEY, CAN I KEEP THIS CASE?


IT LOOKED LIKE THE PERFECT SIZE FOR A GUITAR PICK— SEE, I PUT COTTON IN THE BOTTOM HERE.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THAT?
IT'S MADE OUT OF AGATE. IT'S A PRESENT, SO I KIND OF SPLURGED ON IT.
IT'S A PRETTY GREEN COLOR.
IS IT FOR RYUU-CHAN?
HUH?
I'D LIKE YOU TO AVOID CONTACT WITH HIM.
BY THE WAY, UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUM-STANCES,

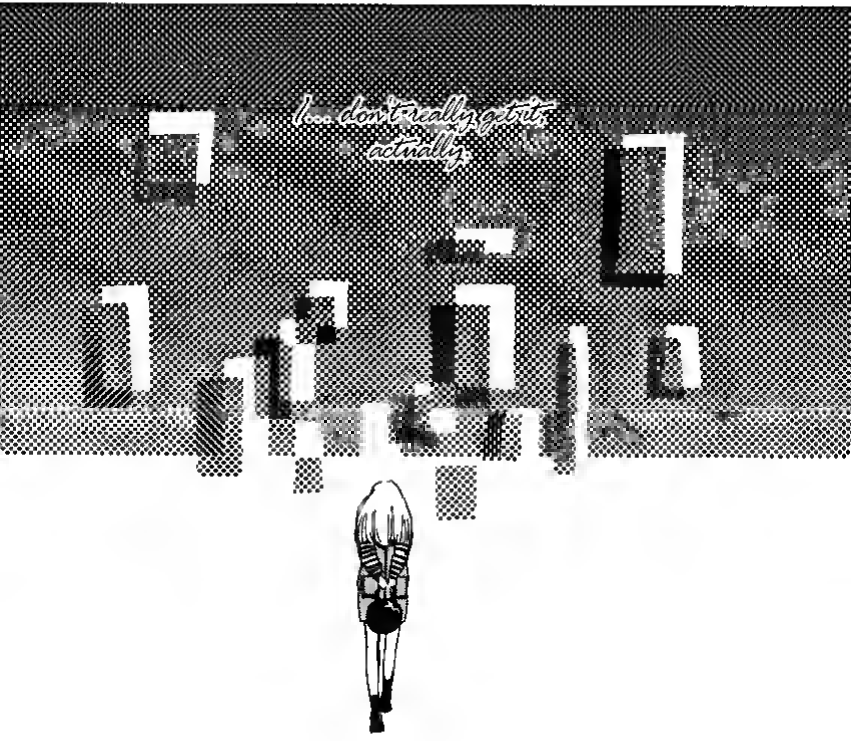
"HE MAY BE YOUR COUSIN, BUT HE'S STILL A BOY."

"A SCANDAL COULD BE FATAL FOR YOU RIGHT NOW."

I do kind of understand, but—

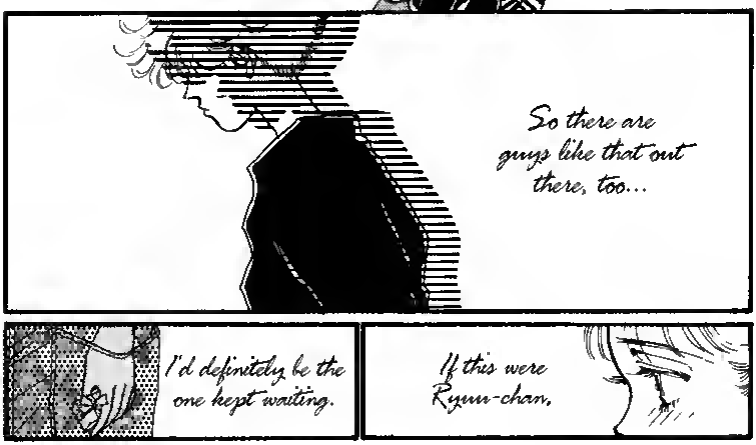
"YOU UNDERSTAND THAT MUCH, DON'T YOU?"

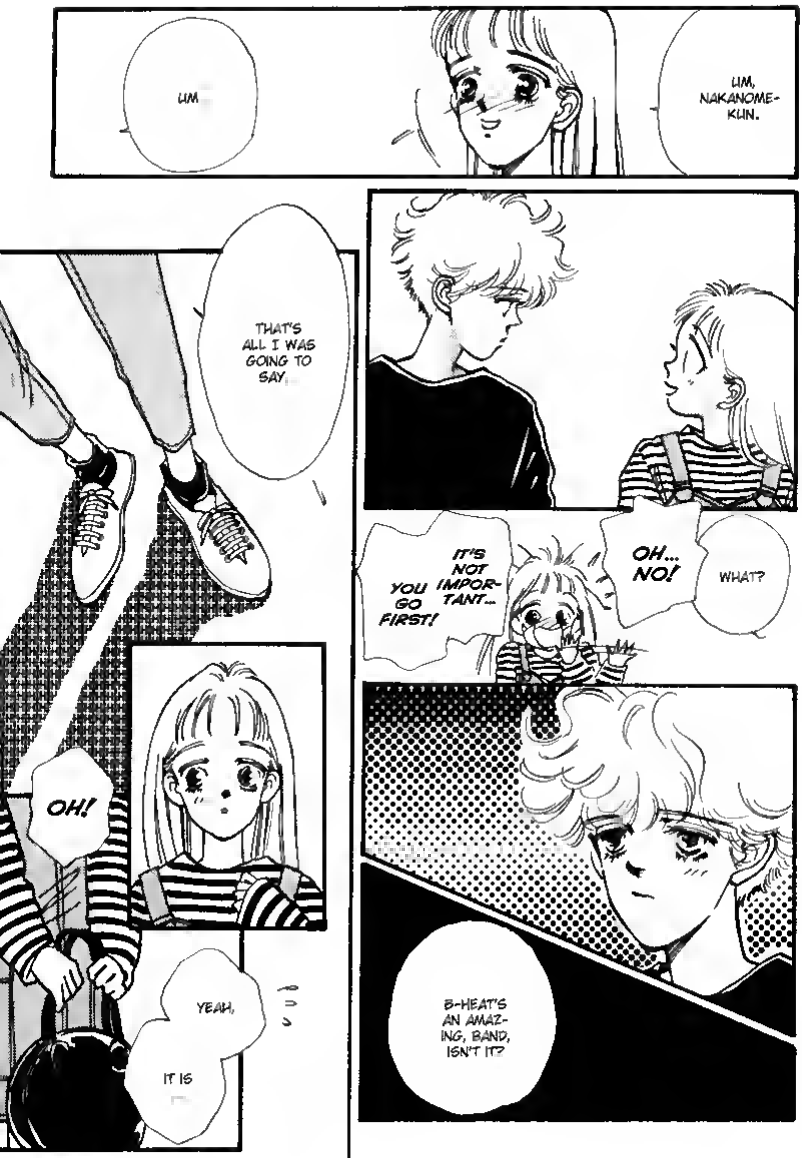
I... don't really get it, actually.



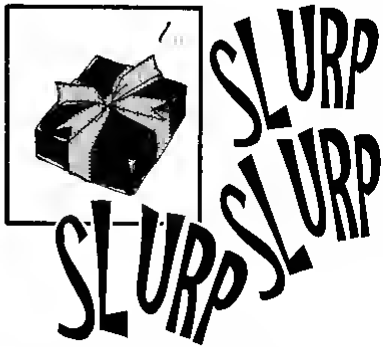
All the girls in class do it.
So why do people say it's going to be a scandal?!
Talking with boys, meeting up with them...
Is this what it's really like to be a singer?!

NAKANOME-KUN.
S-SORRY, DID YOU WAIT LONG?
OH... I GOT HERE TOO EARLY.
16:55

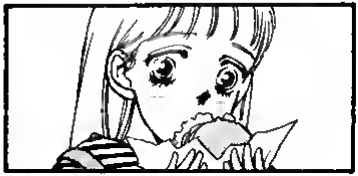

So there are guys like that out there, too...
If this were Ryuu-chan,
I'd definitely be the one kept waiting.


UM
UM, NAKANOME-KUN.
B-HEAT'S AN AMAZ-ING BAND, ISN'T IT?
WHAT?
OH... NO!
IT'S NOT IMPOR-TANT... YOU GO FIRST!
THAT'S ALL I WAS GOING TO SAY...
OH!
YEAH, IT IS

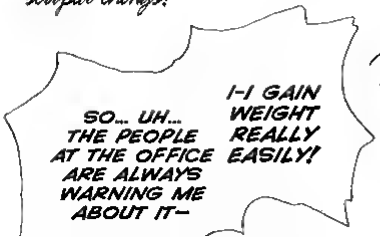
WHAT WERE YOU GOING TO SAY, KISHIMORI-SAN?
I have to give it to him.
GROWL
UM...
I WANTED TO—
I WANTED TO SAY THANK YOU FOR THE OTHER NIGHT—
GROWL
I—I HAVEN'T HAD DINNER YET—
THAT'S OK WE STILL HAVE SOME TIME...

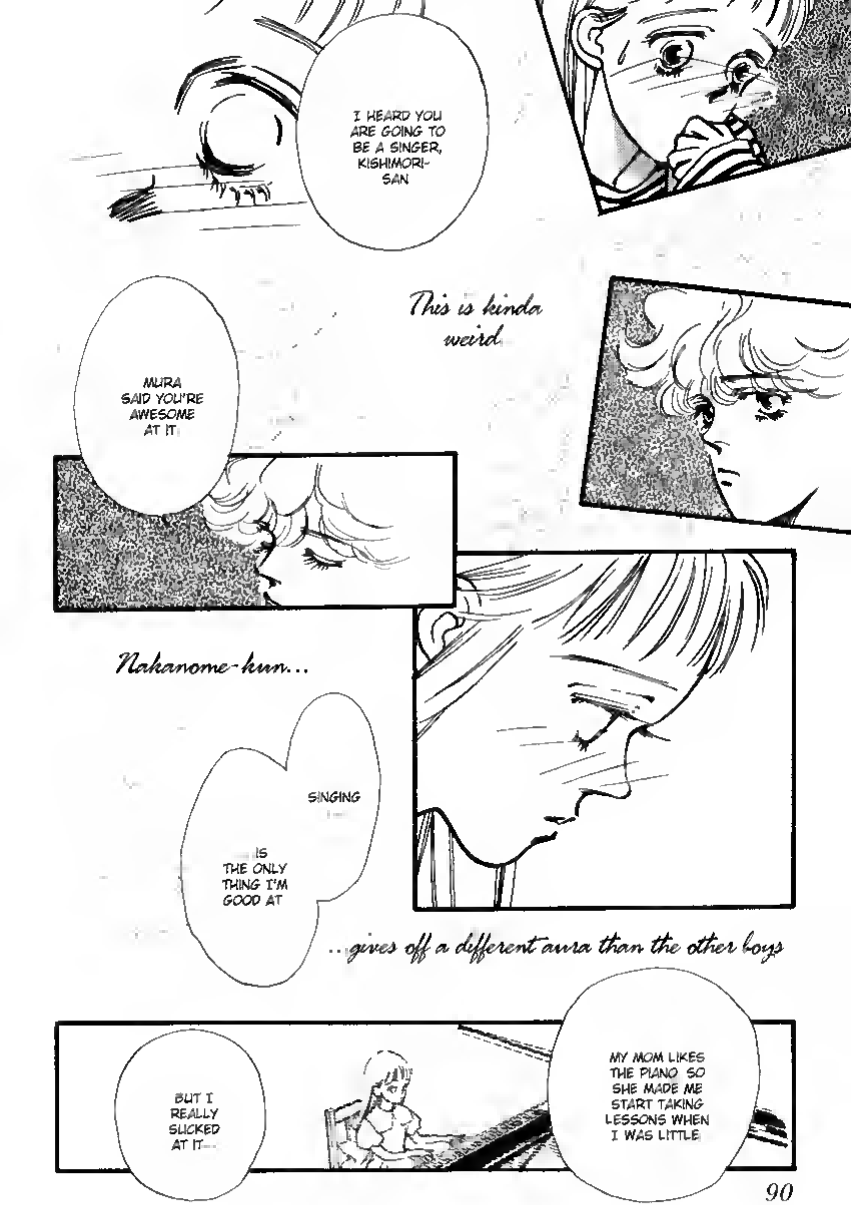


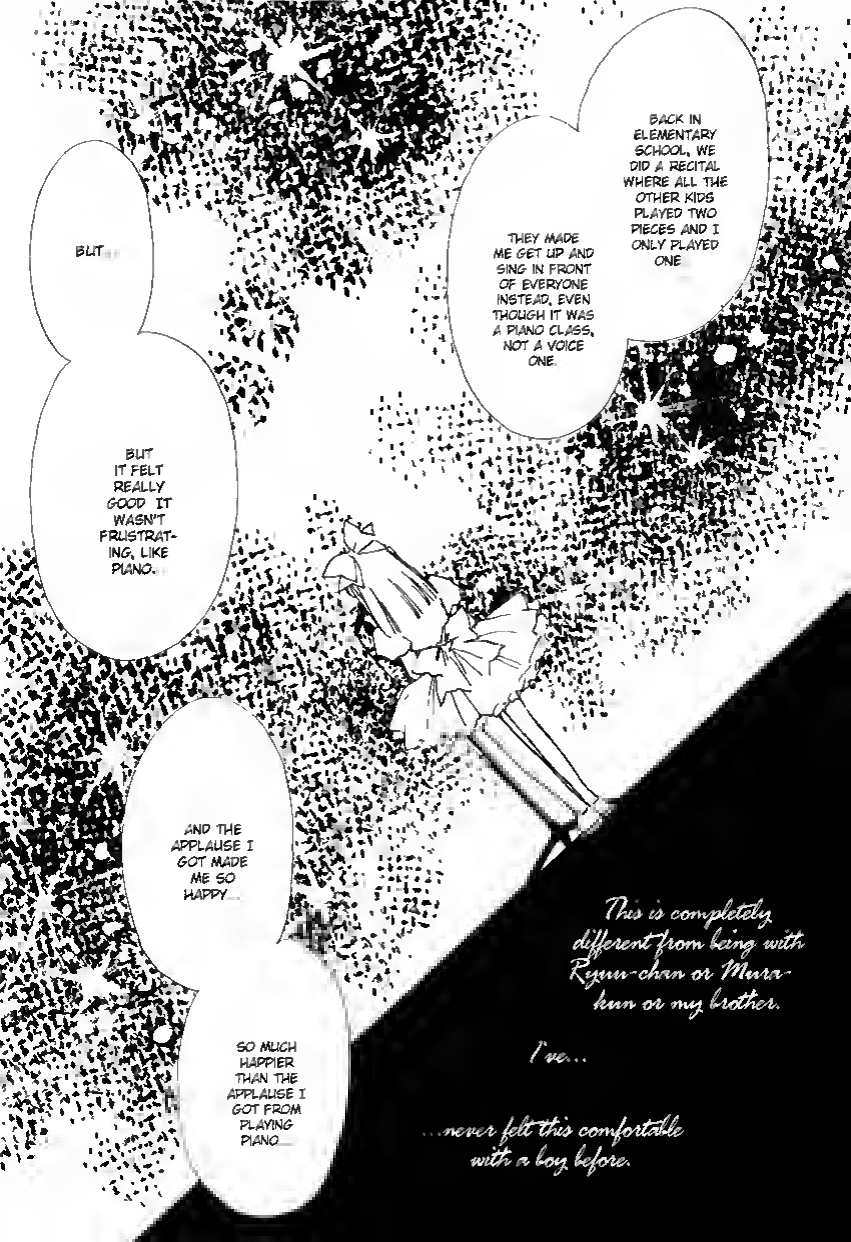
...totally missed my chance.

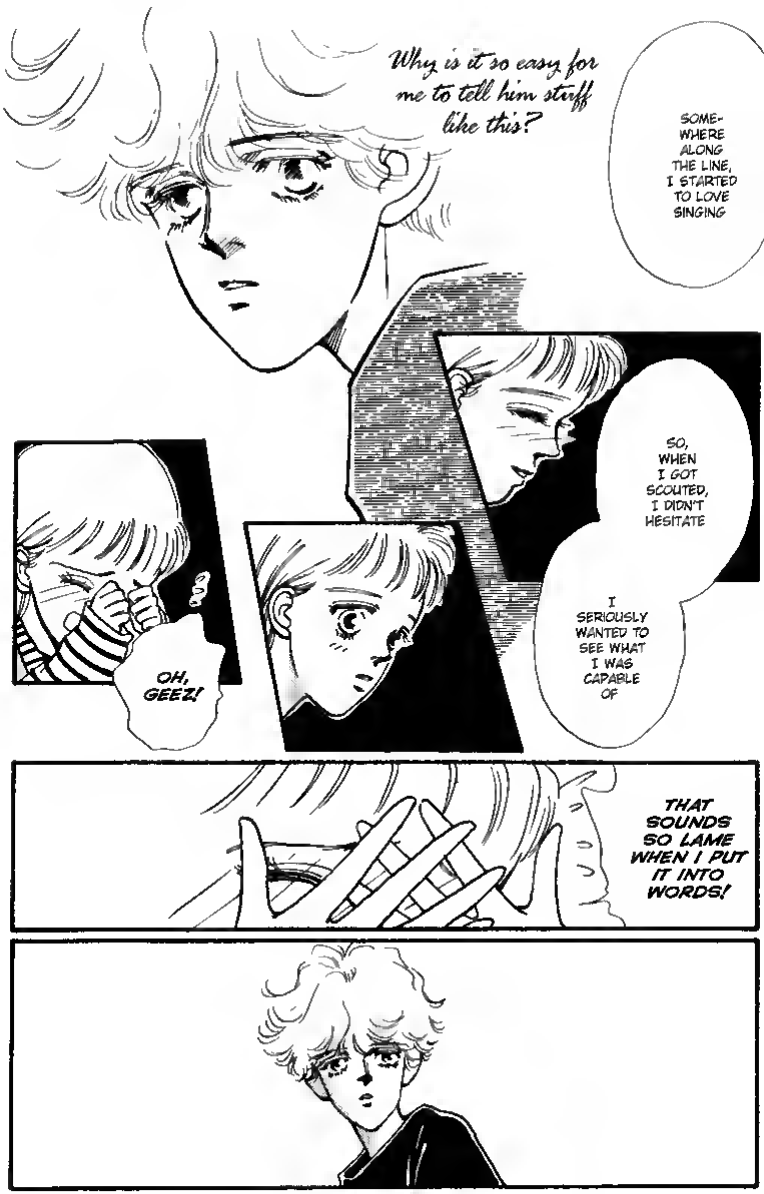


Eep! I'm saying such stupid things!




I HEARD YOU ARE GOING TO BE A SINGER, KISHIMORI-SAN
This is kinda weird
MURA SAID YOU'RE AWESOME AT IT
Nakanome-kun...
SINGING IS THE ONLY THING I'M GOOD AT
...gives off a different aura than the other boys
MY MOM LIKES THE PIANO SO SHE MADE ME START TAKING LESSONS WHEN I WAS LITTLE
BUT I REALLY SUCKED AT IT...


BUT...
BUT IT FELT REALLY GOOD. IT WASN'T FRUSTRATING, LIKE PIANO.
BACK IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, WE DID A RECITAL WHERE ALL THE OTHER KIDS PLAYED TWO PIECES AND I ONLY PLAYED ONE.
THEY MADE ME GET UP AND SING IN FRONT OF EVERYONE INSTEAD, EVEN THOUGH IT WAS A PIANO CLASS, NOT A VOICE ONE.
AND THE APPLAUSE I GOT MADE ME SO HAPPY...
SO MUCH HAPPIER THAN THE APPLAUSE I GOT FROM PLAYING PIANO...
This is completely different from being with Ryuu-chan or Mura-kun or my brother.
I've...
...never felt this comfortable with a boy before.


Why is it so easy for me to tell him stuff like this?
SOME-WHERE ALONG THE LINE, I STARTED TO LOVE SINGING
SO, WHEN I GOT SCOUTED, I DIDN'T HESITATE
I SERIOUSLY WANTED TO SEE WHAT I WAS CAPABLE OF
OH, GEEZ!
THAT SOUNDS SO LAME WHEN I PUT IT INTO WORDS!

I'm not...

Compared to Ryuu-chan and the others, I'm...

B-HEAT

No matter how fickle...
...and self-centered he is,
Ryuu-chan...
just...

...watching one of his concerts
makes me feel like I can
forgive all that.

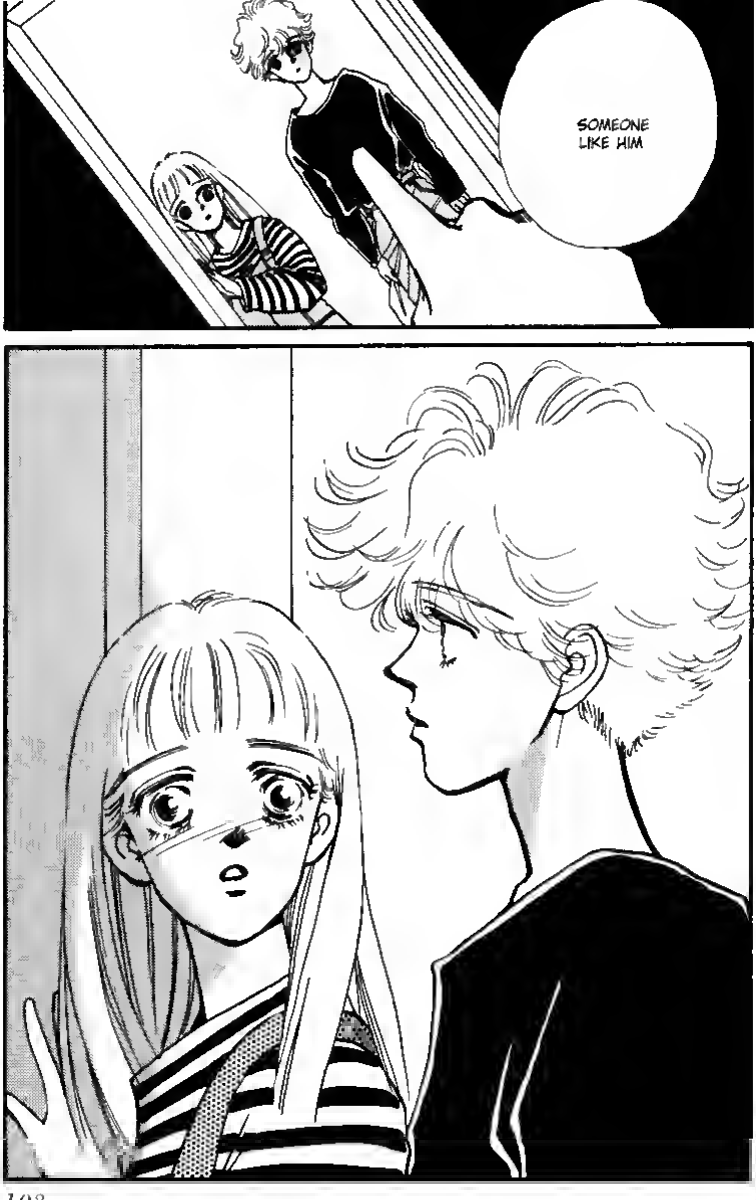
UM...
HOW DID YOU LIKE THE CONCERT?
YEAH. RYUJI-CHAN SAID HE WANTS TO MEET YOU.
ARE YOU SURE IT'S OK...
...FOR US TO GO BACKSTAGE?
I THOUGHT IT WAS AMAZING...

I'M...
SO PROUD OF MY COUSIN RYUU-CHAN
SMACK
SLAM
EEK!

HOLD UP, YOUJI!
RINO-CHAN!
WELL, HE AND RYUJI WERE GOING AT IT AGAIN.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUJI-SAN?
FOR-GET ABOUT HIM!

Contest?!
SHUT UP!
BUT RYUU! WE REALLY CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE YOUJI RIGHT NOW—
IF HE WANTS TO QUIT, LET HIM
YEAH, WHAT ABOUT THE UP-COMING CONTEST?!
TO THE HELL WITH THE CONTEST! IT'S NOT LIKE WE HAD A CHANCE WITH HIM SUCKING SO BAD ANYWAY!

DEEP DOWN, YOU GUYS THINK SO TOO, RIGHT?!
HE WAS NOTHING BUT TALK! HE ACTED MORE LIKE A KID FOOLING AROUND THAN THE ADULT HE WAS!
B
HEAT
WHAT I REALLY WANT...
WHAT I REALLY WANT IS SOMEONE WHO ISN'T ALL TALK
SOMEONE WHO'LL NAIL IT FOR US.


SOMEONE
LIKE HIM

THREE

BY FUYUMI SOURYO

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

DRAGON VOICE

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